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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY French Equatorial Africa (Cameroons)/Rio Muni

SUBJECT Status of Roads and Highways

25X1A

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DATE DISTR. 25 JUN 1954

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

MAP REFERENCES: AFRICA--Ouesso and Libreville sectors, Army Map Service (Sep/Nov 42) Nos. 100006 and 110904, 1:1,000,000.

1. There is a new road from Bata on the west coast of Rio Muni to Ebebivin, in the extreme northeast corner of this small piece of Spanish territory. Although this road is not paved, it is very good in terms of some of the graded secondary roads found in rural sections of the US. It runs from Bata to Oyoun, to Mongo, and then cuts over near the Loio River, which it follows for approximately ten miles. It then bears northwestward to Bido, to Mevundo, to Mbam, to Mikamesen, and thence to Bedoun, ending at Ebebivin. This is an old native trail, frequently traveled, which has now become a road.
2. The only surfaced road in the Cameroons runs from M'Balmayo to Sangmelina, which lie roughly 100 - 125 miles east of the coast just above Rio Muni. (Coordinates: Libreville Sector, 11.55/3.50--11.99/2.99) This is, in truth, a magnificent highway and will someday be connected with the remainder of a road net extending from Edsa and Kribi on the coast as far back as Djoum, roughly 200 miles into the interior. We got back as far as Djoum (Coordinates: Ouesso Sector, 12.75/2.75) with no trouble at all, although there were several places where we reinforced the bridges prior to driving our truck across. There are six white people in Djoum, all of whom are French.
3. From Djoum the road forks out in two directions, one going almost due south and thence back in the general direction of the Rio Muni border. The other fork goes almost due west and is passable by truck for approximately 80 miles to a point south and beyond Lomie (Coordinates: Ouesso Sector, 13.65/3.20).

Map
Available on loan from the CIA/Library is a photostatic copy of a recent map, locally obtained by source, showing the roads, native villages, etc., described in the last paragraph above. Map call number is 87468-R. To borrow call code 143, ext. 25967. - end -

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